

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method of managing physical-file-based data adapted to be manipulated via a file-based computerized editor, wherein the physical-file-based data includes a physical file having a plurality of file elements, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) representing the physical-file-based data as a plurality of individual components, each individual component having a unique identity and identifier, wherein said individual components are adapted to be manipulated by a transaction-based computerized editor;

(b) storing (i) a latest version of the individual components, and (ii) information to fully document changes made to each version of each individual component during each of said plurality of successive sessions, wherein said changes comprise additions, modifications and deletions,~~said individual components~~

in a store, wherein all of said individual components corresponding to one physical file of said physical-file-based data are stored in a single store, and said single store contains no individual components of a different physical file of said physical-file-based data; and

(c) recreating equivalent physical-file-based data for use within an environment of a physical-file-based computerized editor from said individual components in said store, wherein said recreated physical-file-based data is adapted to be edited via a physical-file-based editor in a plurality of successive sessions.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

(d) retrieving said components using a client comprising a private store, and a run-time agent, wherein said run-time agent looks up a store's server, connects with said store's server, requests said components from said server, and stores a version of said components in said private store.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

(e) providing access to said retrieved components to external applications through said run-time agent.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (presently amended) The method according to claim ~~6~~ 1, further comprising at least one of:

(d) using said information stored in step (b) (ii) to view successive versions of any individual changed component; and

(e) using the information stored in step (b) (ii) to view a plurality of changed components.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) includes defining and storing a schema for said plurality of components, said schema being a set of classes that captures all of the information in said physical-file-based data.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

(d) retrieving said schema whenever said components are retrieved from said store.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein said schema defines at least one of a class for each element type, and a plurality of classes for said physical-file-based data.

11. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein said schema is associated with a type of file selected from the group consisting of a DGN file, a DWG file and a STEP file.

12. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein each component has (i) a unique identifier, (ii) a set of fields, each field having a data type and a data value, and (iii) a program which interprets and modifies said fields, and step (b) includes storing items (i)-(iii) for each component.

13. (original) The method according to claim 12, wherein at least some of said components further have (iv) a list of other dependent components, and step (b) further includes storing said list for such components.

14. (original) The method according to claim 12, wherein at least some of said components further have (iv) an access control value, and step (b) further includes storing said access control values for such components.

15. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) includes mapping at least some of said plurality of elements to respective single components.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

(d) defining a tag for at least some of said file elements during interaction with said file-based computerized editor; and

(e) storing and saving a mapping between said tag for each tagged file element and its component identifier.

Claims 17-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An apparatus for translating physical-file-based data adapted to be manipulated via a physical-file-based computerized editor into a plurality of individual components, wherein the physical-file-based data includes a physical file having a plurality of file elements, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a translator that represents physical-file-based data as a plurality of individual components, each individual component having (i) a unique identifier, (ii) a set of fields, each field having a data type and a data value, and (iii) a program which interprets and modifies said fields, wherein said individual components are adapted to be manipulated by a transaction-based computerized editor; and

(b) a memory for storing (i) a latest version of the individual components, and (ii) information to fully document changes made to each version of each individual component during each of said plurality of successive sessions, wherein said changes comprise additions, modifications and deletions,~~said individual components~~

in a store, wherein all of said individual components corresponding to one physical file of said physical-file-based data are stored in a single store, and said single store contains no individual components of a different physical file of said physical-file-based data;

wherein said translator is adapted to recreate equivalent physical-file-based data for use within an environment of a physical-file-based computerized editor from said individual components in said store; and wherein said recreated physical-file-based data is adapted to be edited via a physical-file-based editor in a plurality of successive sessions.

22. (original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein at least some of said individual components further have (iv) a list of other dependent components, said memory further storing such lists.

23. (original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein at least some of said individual components further have (iv) an access control value, said memory further storing such values.

24. (original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein each element is represented by a component.

Claims 25-37 (canceled)

38. (new) The method according to claim 21, further comprising at least one of:

(d) using said information stored in step (b) (ii) to view successive versions of any individual changed component; and

(e) using the information stored in step (b) (ii) to view a plurality of changed components.